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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 2004, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 17, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES F. BASS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
Lord, be with the American people as they pray today for all who witness for You in this world.

We ask You to be with all those who serve the public in roles of government, military service, homeland security, and neighborhood protection.

May all leaders of religious faiths, businesses, communities, and families be blessed with courage, perseverance, and hope.

May teachers, preachers, scientists, and artists bring the light of wisdom into the darkness of this age.

Remove evil from the sight of children. Calm every fear.

Fill everyone with the knowledge of Your presence here, now, and forever.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IRAQ LIBERATION HAS BROUGHT THE HOPE OF FREEDOM TO MILLIONS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this Friday the historic liberation of the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's vicious tyranny began. Thanks to the leadership of President George W. Bush and the courage of our military with coalition partners, Iraqis no longer fear Saddam's torture chambers and executions. Instead, millions enjoy the hope of freedom and democracy.

Today, Iraqi women have the freedom to participate in government and chil-

dren are going to newly renovated schools. Decades of neglect by Saddam are being reversed in record time as health clinics, water sources, electricity and sanitation are being restored throughout the country.

Most importantly, the world no longer lives under the constant threat of a madman who harbored and supported terrorists.

After World War II, we helped rebuild Germany to assist it from becoming a breeding ground for communists, and we were successful. Today we are rebuilding Iraq to assist it from being a breeding ground for terrorists, and we will be successful in protecting American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. And we will never forget September 11.

U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ DEFINED

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the House is about to consider H. Res. 561, which represents another missed opportunity for this body. The war in Iraq defined and drove United States' policy for the last 2 years. While there are legitimate questions about whether we are as a world safer today than we were a year ago, this resolution ignores the real question of how safe the world would be, if we had done it right.

While there was never a doubt about the U.S. winning the war, this administration ignored the cost of winning the peace. Our young men and women in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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